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### Prep Newsletter Term 3 2017

Dear Parents,

Term two was super busy and some excellent learning occurred! In Mathematics, we have focused on learning our 'teen' numbers to 20, measuring length and mass of classroom objects, subitising and addition. In Reading we have continued to learn the most common letter sounds as well as strategies such as 'chunky monkey' (chunk the words into smaller parts) and stretchy snake (stretch the word out slowly). We started 'reading groups' and enjoyed all the different literacy games such as 'letter blend bingo' and 'digraph sort'. We learned to recognize digraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound) and how to blend two sounds together. In Writing we started to use our knowledge of letter sounds to write sounds we hear in words. We have been working on our speaking and listening skills during show and tell and some of us get to present at assembly! We have also investigated families, celebrations and our community during Inquiry.

We are ready for another busy and exciting term ahead!

#### Processes and Procedures:

On arrival at school, students should still be placing their backpack in their locker and changing their reader *on their own* (please let them do this by their self to develop independence).

This term, each student has their own 'locker tub' where all of their books are kept. This is to start getting them used to getting things themselves as opposed to the teachers handing out their books to them. It is to develop their responsibility and independence.

There is a new 'sign in' process that we are trying out this term. Before the students begin their morning work at their tables, they will be 'signing in'. Inside their tub, there is a clipboard. They are to trace the day of the week and then write their name - this is good practice to write their name correctly and to learn the days of the week. They will also have a picture of an object on the paper that they need to try to sound out how to spell (eg. hen – h-e-n).

After they have signed in, students take part in their morning work for the day at their table before meeting in our home group for circle time, calendar and show and tell.

The **school canteen** is available for lunch orders every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students should place their lunch order in the tub upon entry in the morning.

\*The canteen will NOT be open at recess and lunch to students on Mondays, however lunch orders will still be available. It will remain open to students at recess and lunch on Wednesday and Fridays.

Upon pick up at 3:30, please remain outside of the classroom and wait for your child to come to you. We always try our best to release children on the bell, however, sometimes things come up at the last minute and we may need to keep your child for a couple of extra minutes. We thank you for your patience!

Whole school **assembly** will still occur each Monday morning. Parents are always welcome to attend. Each assembly, one grade is responsible for leading the assembly and also talking about what they have been learning about. Prep B will lead assembly on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Prep A will lead assembly on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Every student might not get a turn to speak this term. If they do not, they will be speaking in term 4. Every student will get a chance to speak into the microphone at least once this year as it is a part of their speaking and listening development. They will get time to practice what they will say and also to practice speaking into the microphone before presenting at assembly. Every week, a child is selected to be '**student of the week**'. They will receive a reward and recognition in front of the whole school (at assembly), as well as compliments from their peers in circle time. That student will also be the special helper for that week. Please ensure you celebrate with your child when they receive this award as it is a great accomplishment!

#### Communication Processes:

Please remember to check your child's communication folders DAILY for important notices and newsletters. Please remove these from your child's folder so that we know you have read them.

Ms Sarah and Ms Lou are available most mornings and afternoons for brief discussions. Should you wish to discuss any matter in detail, we are happy to make a mutually convenient time to meet.

### Specialist Teachers and Timetable – Term 3

Italian – Signorina Candice  
PE/Sport – Mrs. Plastow  
Art/Music – Ms. Lisa

#### **Physical Education:**

During term 3 we will be exploring movement to music, both free, expressive movement and also learning some folk dances. We will be learning to skip and use the hoops. Later in the term we will return to our throwing and catching skills. Batting skills will also be introduced.

Prep Specialist Timetable – Term 3		
	Prep A: Ms. Lou	Prep B: Ms. Sarah
Physical Education	Wednesday 12:30	Wednesday 2:30
Art	Thursday 11:30	Thursday 10:00
Italian	Thursday 10:00	Thursday 11:30
Music	Monday 2:30	Monday 3:30
*Library and Buddies will be every Thursday.		

#### **Art and Music:**

The students will create a number of art works using a variety of media, techniques and processes in the areas of ceramics, painting, textiles, modelling, drawing and construction. In Term 3, activities will concentrate on *Threads & Textiles and Modelling*. The children will explore design elements such as – line, shape, colour and texture. With a focus on *'Prehistoric Creatures'*, they will explore ancient and contemporary ceramics and textiles and look at images of dinosaurs and fossils for inspiration.

They will create 'prehistoric' felt creatures on hessian using stitching and threading techniques, air dry clay pinch pot nests with dinosaur eggs and a plant 'fossil' tile. The tiles will be displayed along with tiles made by all other year levels. As these art activities can be quite messy, all children need to bring an art smock (an old shirt will do) to protect their school uniform. These need to be named and will be sent home for cleaning at the end of each term.

Prep classes will have a one hour Performing Arts class each week during Term 3. The children will participate in activities based on the various elements of music and performance (beat, pitch, dynamics, tempo, form, style) using voice, movement and musical instruments. They will invent simple movements and rhythm patterns to beat

#### **Italian:**

This term in Italian students will continue to engage in a variety of communicative activities. They will engage in reading, writing and creating related to the theme of 'il corpo'. Prep students will be engaging in Italian rhymes and songs to further improve their pronunciation and gain better understanding of meaning behind the language.

**If you would like to know more about the Specialist programs, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to speak with Mrs Val Plastow, Signorina Candice and Ms Lisa Gardiner.**

#### **Library & The Buddy Program**

Library will continue this term each Thursday afternoon in the last session of the day. Our buddy program will occur at this time as well so that the buddies can help our preps to choose a book to take home and assist them in the exchange process. Please ensure your child returns their library book (with their library bag) by Thursday each week. With our buddies, we will also be starting to use the netbooks (mini laptop computers) to log on/off and start to learn how to navigate the 'reading eggs' website.

#### **Key Learning Areas:**

In **Mathematics** we will start to look at numbers beyond 20 to 100 and will celebrate 100 days of school. The Early Numeracy Program involves a lot of 'hands on' activities, open ended investigations and real life maths. We will continue to develop number sense as we investigate halves and wholes, sharing, addition and 'skip counting' (counting by 10's and 5's). We will look at 'location' and how to describe movement. We will learn how to sort groups of objects and explain our sorting rule. This term we will also revisit 2D shapes and learn about 3D shapes such as: cone, cylinder, cube and sphere.

In **Reading** this term we will continue our 'Reading Groups'. Students will complete various literacy activities such as: word work, literacy games, listening post, book response or 'teacher group' which is an intensive guided reading session. Students will move reading groups based on their level of development. We will continue to practice various word decoding strategies in order to help students to read unknown words. We will focus a lot on rhyming words and will learn various Nursery Rhymes. We will move onto Fairy tales and will have a big focus on retelling texts which is key for developing your child's understanding of the text. Near the end of term we will focus on Information texts and tie this in with our 'Dinosaur' Inquiry unit. We will learn what a 'fact' is and be able to retell facts from texts.

**Phonological awareness** continues to be a key focus in our literacy program. We are constantly asking students to recall what the first/last sound is that they hear in a word and also practicing blending sounds together to make words. We are learning how to 'drum out' words to say how many beats are in a word (syllables). Identifying and generating rhyming words is also a large part of developing phonological awareness. In Semester 1 we have focused on learning the letter names and the most common sound that they make (eg. The letter 'Aa' makes the most common sound heard in the word 'apple'). However, in the English language we know that letter sounds can actually make lots of different sounds, and, when paired with different letters can actually make a different sound altogether. This term we will revisit the letters of the alphabet to go over some other sounds that letters and combinations of letters can make. We will have a 'sound' or 'phoneme of the week'. We will start by revisiting the vowels and looking at the 'long vowel' sounds and also the different graphemes (or spelling combinations) that you might come across when reading words that make these sounds. We will be looking at different digraphs (two letters that make one sound), split digraphs, and how to blend different sounds together when reading. We will also continue to learn the 'Magic 100' and 'Magic 200' most commonly used words.

**Writing** sessions will be a big focus in Term 3. Now that many of us know all or most of the sounds that letters make, we can now use this knowledge to start writing words independently, having a go to 'sound out' what they hear to write. We will be writing full sentences on our own with finger spaces, full stops and capital letter to start. Our writing focus will vary each week. We will do a little bit of recounts and will link it into our fairytale focus to write character profiles, instructions and letters. Later in the term we will have some fun writing down facts about our favourite dinosaurs. We will continue to work through our handwriting books each week to practice proper letter formation and pencil grip. We will also continue to link writing into our Inquiry and SEL program.

### **Inquiry**

Our Inquiry unit this term will focus first on different materials and their properties (eg. wood is hard, smooth and strong). We will then move into our unit on Dinosaurs. Through hands-on activities students explore the external features of modern animals, and compare them with the skeletons of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. Students learn about the protective features of dinosaurs and use those ideas with their learned knowledge about materials to design and make their very own 'dino shield'. This will require some critical and creative thinking! We will hold a learning expo at the end of the term to showcase our dinosaur shields (more details to come!). To compliment our learning of dinosaurs, we will be going on an excursion to the Melbourne Museum on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. How exciting!

### **SEL**

Prep students have been introduced to the whole school initiative program called **SEL – Social & Emotional Learning**. The program involves a range of different activities and disciplines that help develop social and emotional learning skills in our students. Our focus this term will be on *Relationships*. We will also continue to discuss what it means to be a good friend and practice different strategies for dealing with difficult situations.

### **Assessment**

Assessment continues to be ongoing in each key learning area. The next lot of formal reports will go home at the end of the school year in term four.

### **Home Learning Expectations**

**Reading** - Home reading diaries will continue to be checked weekly by your child's teacher. Students should continue to read at home every night or as often as possible. Remember to record the title and keep track of how many days they are reading at home – there are prizes for when students reach 50, 75 and 100 + nights! 😊 Students should remember to change their reader every morning, choosing a book from the levelled tubs that matches their reading level.

**Magic 100 Words, Letters and Sounds** - The 'take home books' have been updated to reflect your child's learning progress. If you feel like your child knows all the most common letter sounds, it is still a good idea to review these regularly, which is why we have included an alphabet sheet in the take home books for your reference. Each week, we are focusing on a 'sound' or 'phoneme' of the week. In the take home books, there will be a sheet included each week that has this sound and its most common graphemes (spelling choices). Feel free to review these with your child. You could even search for the sound when you are reading together and write down any words you come across with this phoneme in them. We will also continue to test your child each week on their Magic Words. When they learn all of the words in that group, they will get a certificate and move onto the next group of words.

**Show and Tell** – There was a new 'show and tell' roster sent home at the beginning of the term and it is also up in our window to refer to at your convenience. Please make sure you are aware of your child's day and what the topic is each week so that you can help them to prepare for this important weekly routine. Show and tell is a great way to develop your child's confidence and develop their oral language skills.

### Uniform Expectations

Term 3 is not a 'sunsmart' term, therefore it is not a mandatory requirement for your child to wear a hat for outdoor play. However, we do still get some very strong sunny days with a high UV index in winter, so please use your own judgement. Students are still encouraged to come to school with their hat.

A reminder that our school uniform is navy blue pants and a light blue top. Black shorts or black tracksuit/leggings are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school. It would be helpful if you packed a spare change of clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents.

### Volunteering

Thank you to those parents who have already been helping consistently in the classroom. We really appreciate it and the preps have loved having you! Parental assistance is highly valued in many ways in our classroom. Parents can assist with reading, computers, the Early Literacy and the Numeracy Program. Your time and support would be greatly appreciated. A current 'Working with Children' certificate is required. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help.

### What you can do at home to support child's learning:

- Making sure your child gets a **good night sleep**. Children this age get very tired at school and need over 8 hours of sleep every night.
- Read every day with your child and ask questions about the book. A daily reading routine is important and this makes it fun and enjoyable for both parents and child. Reading should be fun and not stressful.)
- Encourage children to read books, magazines (child centred), and occasionally visit the local library. Children enjoy this experience and love to share their borrowed books from a **big library**.
- Encourage your child to write shopping lists and messages.
- Support your child's interests particularly when we cover our integrated units of work. For example, children enjoy researching dinosaurs, family history and experimenting with science activities at home.
- Revise the 100 mostly used words by playing card games or oral spelling games. For example, making snap card games.
- Practise sounds and letters, specifically the ones sent home in their 'take home' books.
- Play educational maths games. For example, counting, snakes and ladders, snap and Uno card game.
- Together attempt some of the Maths and English computer games. Children in the junior school area enjoy playing toy theater.com.au, starfall.com.au, Reading Eggs and Mathletics. Login details will be sent home with your children.
- Encourage and assist your child with any 'special projects' or 'homework' activities.
- Attend school events, assemblies or productions in which your child is involved in.
- Regularly contacting the teacher to discuss any problems they may be having at school.
- Helping them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- Discussing homework in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home and linking it to their previous experiences.



We look forward to another great term with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Sarah Anderson and Lou Morrow